

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-3, 6-14, 25, 27-35, 44, and 52; objected to claims 15, 16, 20-22, 24, 36, 39-41, 43, and 45; and rejected claims 46-48. By this paper, Applicants amend claims 15 and 36 (adopting the Examiner's suggestions) and cancel claims 46-48 to place the present application in condition for allowance. Claims 1-3, 6-16, 20-22, 24, 25, 27-36, 39-41, 44, 45, and 52 are currently pending in the present application and are believed to be in allowable form. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Objections

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 36, 46, and 47. Final Office Action, page 2. By this paper, Applicants amend claim 36 as suggested by the Examiner to recite "wherein the first fractionation column is configured to process hydrocarbon fluid from the hydrocarbon/purge gas recovery unit and vapor from the recycle tank." In addition, claims 46 and 47 are cancelled; therefore, the Examiner's objection to these claims is moot. In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the objection to the claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 15, 16, 20-22, 24, 36, 39-41, 43, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Final Office Action, pages 2-3. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the

Examiner's interpretation of the cited claims, Applicants amend independent claims 15 and 36 as suggested by the Examiner to recite "an additional pressure chamber" rather than "a low pressure chamber." In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Hottovy (WO 00/53306) in view of Sherk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,501,885) and Salmon (U.S. Patent No. 6,566,460). Final Office Action, pages 3-6. By this paper, Applicants cancel claims 46-48; therefore, the Examiner's objection to these claims is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-3, 6-14, 25, 27-35, 44, and 52 are allowable. Final Office Action, pages 6-7. Furthermore, the Examiner indicated that claims 15, 16, 20-22, 24, 36, 39-41, 43, and 45 would be allowable if amended to overcome the objections and rejections set forth above. Final Office Action, page 7. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. By this paper, Applicants amend independent claims 15 and 36 to address the Examiner's objections and rejections. Accordingly, Applicants believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, as indicated by the Examiner. *See* Final Office Action, pages 6-7.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to

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clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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